

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

(By Senators Hall, Wells and Klempa)

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6 Requesting the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to name
7 bridge number 40-35-2.40, located on the new Route 35,
8 crossing Route 34 at Poplar Fork, Putnam County, the "PFC
9 Roger Lee Byus Memorial Bridge, Killed in Action, Vietnam
10 1969".

11 Whereas, Roger Lee Byus was born on March 23, 1949, the son of
12 Mervin C. Byus, Jr. and Alma Ruth Ball Byus in Winfield, Putnam
13 County, West Virginia and raised and educated in Putnam County. He
14 attended Black Lick School, a one-room elementary school near his
15 home, Hurricane Middle School and Hurricane High School, where he
16 played football. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and riding
17 motorcycles and any activity related to snow. He was employed by
18 C. H. Heist Corporation. He married Judy Elaine Dillon on
19 September 19, 1966. Eight days later she was killed in an
20 automobile accident; and

21 Whereas, On March 20, 1969, Roger Lee Byus was inducted into
22 the United States Army along with his two best friends, William
23 Gillespie and Keith Grant and were sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky
24 where he completed his basic and AIT training. He was then sent to

1 Vietnam, arriving there on October 13, 1969, where he became a
2 member of the elite 11th Armored Calvary, Blackhorse Regiment,
3 Second Squadron, E Troop as a gunner. On November 24, 1969, while
4 on a volunteer mission in Phuoc Long, South Vietnam, E Troop
5 encountered enemy forces and called for mortar support. The
6 coordinates were incorrectly sent and E Troop suffered a direct hit
7 injuring PFC Roger Lee Byus who was dead upon arrival at a base
8 hospital; and

9 Whereas, PFC Roger Lee Byus made the ultimate sacrifice for
10 his country, during the conflict in Vietnam, earning the Purple
11 Heart, Bronze Star and other medals posthumously; and

12 Whereas, The nature of the sacrifice of this brave and
13 courageous son of Putnam County requires us to honor his memory, by
14 ensuring that future generations are aware of his bravery and
15 sacrifice in the cause of freedom; therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

17 That the Legislature hereby requests the Commissioner of the
18 Division of Highways to name bridge number 40-35-2.40, located on
19 the new Route 35, crossing Route 34 at Poplar Fork, Putnam County
20 the "PFC Roger Lee Byus Memorial Bridge, Killed in Action, Vietnam,
21 1969"; and, be it

22 *Further Resolved,* That the Commissioner of the Division of
23 Highways is hereby requested to cause to be fabricated signs to be
24 erected at each entry of said bridge, containing bold and prominent

1 letters proclaiming the bridge to be the "PFC Roger Lee Byus
2 Memorial Bridge, Killed in Action, Vietnam, 1969"; and, be it

3 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the Senate is hereby
4 directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of
5 Transportation, the Commissioner of the Division of Highways and
6 the surviving family of PFC Roger Lee Byus.